

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An automated electronic filing system comprising:  
a web server coupled to a wide area network;

a receiving agency server separate from said web server and coupled to said wide area network such that it is capable of communication with said web server; and

a client machine separate from said web server and said receiving agency server and coupled to said wide area network for communication with said web server, such that said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency server, said client machine providing information to said web server forming at least a part of an electronic document to be filed with said receiving agency server by said web server in a manner that said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency computer ~~believes that it is in direct communication with said client machine~~, said electronic document filed for further processing by a receiving agency associated with said receiving agency server in accordance with a procedure for which said receiving agency is in some manner responsible[.]; and

wherein said web server automatically produces at least a portion of said electronic document in response to a selection originating from said client machine.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein said network includes a TCP/IP protocol network.

6. (original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 5 wherein said TCP/IP protocol network includes the Internet.

7-9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein communications between said client machine and said web server are at least partially encrypted.

11. (previously presented) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein communications between said client machine and said web server are subject to authentication.

12. (original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein said web server transacts a financial transaction with said receiving agency server on behalf of said client machine.

13. (currently amended) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein said ~~web server automatically provides a~~ portion of said electronic document automatically provided in response to a selection originating from said client machine includes one of a blank form and a partially filled-in form based upon information stored on said web server.

14. (original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 further comprising an applicant machine coupled to said wide area network.

15. (original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 14 wherein said applicant machine communicates with said web server over said wide area network.
16. (original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 15 wherein communications between said applicant machine and said web server are at least partially encrypted.
17. (original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 15 wherein communications between said applicant machine and said web server are subject to authentication.
18. (original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein communications between said receiving agency server and said web server are at least partially encrypted.
19. (original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 15 wherein communications between said receiving agency server and said web server are subject to authentication.
20. (original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 13 wherein said web server provides said client machine with a form that can be at least partially automatically filled-in in response to said selection.

21. (currently amended) A method for electronically filing documents over the Internet via an intermediary web server comprising:

prior to the following acts, storing data useful for populating an HTML based form on a web server coupled to the Internet;

providing access to said HTML based form by a client machine which is separate from said web server and which is coupled to the Internet;

at least partially automatically filling in said form on said web server with suitable data selected from said data useful for populating said HTML based form based upon input from said client machine;

verifying on said web server ~~information on said form~~ completeness of said form and information of said form based upon stored heuristics; and

submitting by said web server said form to a receiving agency over the Internet.

22. (original) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 21 further comprising:

adding additional information to said form based upon input from said client machine prior to verifying said information.

23. (original) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 22 further comprising obtaining an electronic signature prior to submitting said form to said receiving agency.

24. (original) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 23 further comprising paying a filing fee to said receiving agency in conjunction with the submission of said form to said agency.

25. (original) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 23 wherein said electronic signature is obtained from said client machine.

26. (original) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 23 wherein said electronic signature is obtained from said client machine coupled to said TCP/IP network.

27. (currently amended) A computer readable media including code segments for electronically filing documents over the Internet via an intermediary web server comprising:

- a code segment for storing data useful for populating an HTML based form on a web server coupled to the Internet;

- a code segment providing access to said HTML based form by a client machine which is separate from said web server and which is coupled to the Internet;

- a code segment at least partially automatically filling in said form on said web server with suitable data selected from said data useful for populating said HTML based form based upon input from said client machine;

- a code segment verifying on said web server ~~information on said form~~ completeness of said form and information of said form based upon stored heuristics; and

- a code segment submitting by said web server said form to a receiving agency over the Internet.

28. (original) A computer readable media as recited in claim 27 further comprising:

a code segment adding additional information to said form based upon input from said client machine prior to verifying said information.

29. (original) A computer readable media as recited in claim 28 further comprising a code segment obtaining an electronic signature prior to submitting said form to said receiving agency.

30. (original) A computer readable media as recited in claim 29 further comprising a code segment paying a filing fee to said receiving agency in conjunction with the submission of said form to said agency.

31. (currently amended) An automated electronic filing system for use in electronic prosecution of trademark applications comprising:

a web server coupled to a wide area network;

a receiving agency server separate from said web server and coupled to said wide area network such that it is capable of communicating with said web server, said receiving agency server associated with a governmental agency responsible for the administration of trademark registration; and

a client machine separate from said web server and said receiving agency server and coupled to said wide area network for communication with said web server, such that said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency server, said client machine providing information to said web server forming at least a part of an electronic document related to prosecution of a trademark application or maintenance of a trademark registration, said electronic document to be filed with said receiving agency server by said web server in a manner that

said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency computer  
~~believes that it is in direct communication with said client machine,~~ said  
electronic document filed for further processing by said governmental agency in  
accordance with preestablished rules[.];

wherein said web server automatically produces at least a portion of said  
electronic document in response to a selection originating from said client  
machine; and

wherein said web server makes a payment to said government agency for  
the filing of said electronic document.

32. (currently amended) An automated electronic filing system  
comprising:

a web server capable of communicating over the Internet;

a receiving agency server separate from said web server and capable of  
communicating over the Internet, said receiving agency server associated with a  
governmental agency; and

a client machine separate from said web server and said receiving agency  
server and capable of communicating over the Internet, such that said web  
server serves as an interface to said receiving agency server, said client  
machine providing information to said web server forming at least a part of an  
electronic document, said electronic document to be filed with said receiving  
agency server by said web server for further processing by said governmental  
agency in accordance with pre-established rules[.]; and

wherein said web server makes a payment to said governmental agency  
on behalf of a client for the filing of said electronic document.

33-35. (canceled)

36. (previously presented) A communications system comprising:  
a client computer;  
one or more applicant computers associated with said client computer;  
an intermediary server communicating with at least one of said client computer  
and said one or more applicant computers; and  
a recipient server communicating with said intermediary server over the Internet.

37-41. (canceled)